

Why Voting for 'Yes' is Vote for the Future of the MFT Profession

My name is Galina Litvin and I hold the 'intern' title. I have been serving on the East Bay CAMFT (EBC) Board for the last 2 years and have primarily been silent and preferred to get involved in the background and have not been involved on the e-tree communications, until now.

I come to the MFT profession after working for years as an IT professional for large corporations. I have had experience in running million dollar projects and working among C-level management. In many ways, the CAMFT organization is like many of the large corporations I have been working for. They are a representation of an organization that has grown and has lost touch with its customer base- **You the members**. Often times, organization do not change the way they do business; they simply change the face of who represents them, in this case CAMFT is getting rid of the ED. This change of the ED leaving is not at all an indication of the actual organization changing, or a way to represent you better. The only way to get an organization to really change the way they do business is to have the customer base (YOU) stop buying/using their products.

As an Intern, and an EBC Board member, I feel I have a responsibility and a duty to voice my opinions and/or concerns, to support my fellow interns and colleagues. In my opinion, CAMFT today has not provided adequate resources and or support systems to address our needs. In fact, they often stay silent to any BBS changes that have an impact on our careers and or future licensure. I feel that the intern population has been primarily forgotten by CAMFT and there is tremendous lack of support for us a group. We are often silent, forgotten, and overlooked among the CAMFT organization. I have been working hard since joining EBC to change this perception and provide the assistance that interns like myself lack. For example, I have been advocating for clear representation and services for interns on our current board and have had great traction. For example, I have worked with Nes Pinar, a previous board member, to create a successful intern fair, bringing together numerous organizations, vendors, and clinicians to provide opportunities for employment and networking for future growth. None of these types of activities are stressed or provided by State-run CAMFT .

From an Intern's perspective, Voting **Yes** to separate is essentially a vote for stronger communication, better services, and actionable support for future clinicians and interns. The separation will allow us to re-set and re-engage with our customer base (**We the members**). As MFTs, it would empower and support our needs, giving us greater control of our profession, future growth, and betterment as a community. A smaller organization would have less bureaucracy and improved communication, allowing us to be more agile. It would be a better representation of us as clinicians here in the Bay Area.

I understand the concerns some of my fellow colleagues have for staying with the current organization. That feels like a safe choice. But I would argue that in action it is not **SAFE** or beneficial for the future of our MFT profession. I believe it is necessary to make these positive changes in order for this profession to survive and to meet the needs of all of its members .

#Changeisgood